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FILE 222

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

February 18, 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7330-7/1700A3

Your reference:
Case No. 3028220003

RECEIVED

FEB 23 1993

Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Thurmond:

This is in reply to your letter of February 2, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Fred Willard, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Mr. Willard is specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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Honorable Strom Thurmond

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:

Notice

Order

Discussion paper

Congressional

DUE: 2-12-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
02/05/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA (857)
9300418	02/05/93	02/02/93	02/18/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Strom Thurmond	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
Fred Willard	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/2 min			
2-5-93			
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/05/93			

REMARKS: Please include in your response case number
3028220003.

RECEIVED
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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STROM THURMOND
SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4001

February 2, 1993

PRB
92-235
418

Mr. Steve Klitzman, Associate Director
Office of Congressional Liaison
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 314
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Klitzman:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence I have recently received from Mr. Fred Willard. I believe you will find it self-explanatory.

Your reviewing this material and providing any assistance and/or information possible under the governing statutes and regulations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your attention in this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Strom Thurmond

Strom Thurmond

ST/hc
Enclosure

Please include in your response case number # 3028220003

1-15-93

The Honorable Strom Thurmond 93 JAN 21 AM 9:42
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

I am a 43 year old disabled person and receive a lot of enjoyment from building and flying radio controlled model airplanes. Since I was a youngster I've had an interest in aviation. Only after becoming disabled have I had the chance to explore this interest. I am also very active in a local club whose members share the same interest in building and flying these models.

The purpose of this letter is to tell you that I am very concerned about rules that are proposed for consideration by the FCC. These rules are covered in P.R. Docket 92-235. If approved, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and liability for model plane fliers. At the present time I own 4 model planes that would be unusable if these new frequency assignments are adopted. Not only is this a great loss for me in equipment, but many, many hours loss in the building and construction of my airplanes.

It is my understanding that the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am also told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently reserved for radio control of Model airplanes, only 19 will be left if these new rules are adopted.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operation of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

One final note Senator, I have an 11 year old son who has also become a model builder. At the present time he says he wants to grow up and fly jets for our Navy. This hobby helped to spark his interest in aviation. Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposal for the 72-76 MHz band. Sincerely,
- Fred J. Dillman